

Message Text

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1. EMBASSY GREATLY APPRECIATES APPROVA OF REF NOMINATIONS,
A MAJOR NEW STEP IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CULTURAL EXCHANGE
PROGRAM WITH HUNGARY.

2. A LOOK BACK THROUGH THE RECORDS INDICATES THAT
INDIVIDUAL IV GRANTS HAVE BEEN UNDER INTERMITTENT DIS-
CUSSION WITH THE GOH FOR OVER 11 YEARS. THE ACTUAL
AGREEMENT TO PROCEED WITH THE GRANTS WAS REACHED DURING
THE FIRST VISIT BY CU/DIRECTOR RICHMOND TO HUNGARY
IN THE FALL OF 1974. CONSTANT FOLLOW-UP SINCE THEN,
INCLUDING HIGH-LEVEL SUPPORT BY THE AMBASSADOR WAS
NEEDED IN ORDER TO FINALLY GET THE ACTUAL PROGRAM UNDER
WAY.

3. THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING AN OFFICIAL EXCHANGES
PROGRAM WITH HUNGARY BORE ITS FIRST CONCRETE FRUIT IN
EARLY 1974, WHEN THE GOH APPROVED PARTICIPATION IN
MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS. THEN, DURING THE PAST TWO
YEARS, SEVERAL AMSPECS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AND PROGRAMMED
IN MODEST BUT MEANINGFUL WAYS. WITH THE INITIATION
OF THE INDIVIDUAL IV PROGRAM ANOTHER IMPORTANT PHASE
OF PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED.

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4. DEVELOPMENT OF ACADEMIC EXCHANGES, PRIMARILY OF

LONGER-TERM LECTURERS, NOW REMAINS THE ONE AREA WHERE NO PROGRESS HAS YET BEEN ACHIEVED. IT IS LIKELY TO REMAIN UNPROMISING IN THE NEAR FUTURE BECAUSE OF GOH POLICY NOT TO PROMOTE SUCH EXCHANGES WITH ANY COUNTRY, EAST OR WEST. DURING THE PRESENT PERIOD, WHEN OUR OWN RESOURCES ARE SUBJECT TO SERIOUS CONSTRAINTS, IT MAY BE JUST AS WELL.

5. EXCHANGES OF RESEARCHERS AND GRADUATE STUDENTS HAVE BEEN GOING ON FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS THROUGH THE NSF, IREX, AND NAS PROGRAMS. ALTHOUGH NOT FREE OF OCCASIONAL SERIOUS PROBLEMS, THESE PROGRAMS HAVE ON THE WHOLE BEEN USEFUL AND SHOULD BE CONTINUED. THEY PROVIDE SUPPORT IN AREAS WHERE THE PRESENT SITUATION OF OFFICIAL EXCHANGES, AND THE IV PROGRAM IN PARTICULAR DO NOT SERVE AS USEFUL VEHICLES.

6. WITH THE PROSPECT OF A CULTURAL AGREEMENT, THE LIKELIHOOD IS THAT ON-GOING PROGRAMS WILL RECEIVE OFFICIAL SANCTION AND BETTER SUPPORT. IT WILL ALSO OPEN THE POSSIBILITIES FOR FURTHER GROWTH OF EXCHANGES IN OLD AS WELL AS NEW FIELDS. IT IS LIKELY, HOWEVER, THAT OFFICIAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS WITH HUNGARY, WILL, FOR THE INTERMEDIATE FUTURE CONSIST VERY HEAVILY OF INTERNATIONAL VISITOR GRANTS, AND HAVE A MUCH SMALLER THAN USUAL ACADEMIC EXCHANGE COMPONENT.
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